

**Opening Remarks by Thomas C. Dorr
Under Secretary for Rural Development**

**Farm Bill Energy Title Stakeholders Meeting
Washington, DC**

Tuesday, December 3, 2002

(As prepared for delivery)

- **Thank you Bob and Good Morning everyone.**
- **On behalf of USDA Rural Development and the Bush Administration, I would like to welcome everyone here this morning particularly those of you who are viewing via the Internet. I would also encourage you to submit your comments or testimony electronically.**
- **This is an exciting time in rural America. It is a time when our country and our President are turning to our farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses for their knowledge and resources in order to help America become energy independent and more economically strong.**

- **Today's meeting is especially important because we wish to ensure that as we implement the renewable energy section of the 2002 Farm Bill, we do it in a way that is useful to those of you who may best be able to develop and implement these opportunities.**
- **Frankly, in my opinion, you are the ones who are on the front lines in creating renewable energy opportunities, and it is most important that you have a say in how best to accomplish this goal and fulfill these opportunities for rural America.**
- **I have invited a several outstanding individuals to be here this morning to hear your comments, along with our Rural Development Administrators and specialists in the fields of taxation and energy. We will introduce each of them to you in a few minutes.**
- **But first, I am very pleased to have with us this morning to kick off today's hearing a distinguished gentleman who I have known and respected for many years. He serves as the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Agriculture, Jim Moseley.**

- **Prior to his appointment Jim and his wife Kathy raised seven children and farmed for 32 years on a farm located near Clark Hill, Indiana.**
- **He owned and operated a very successful grain and hog farm.**
- **Although Jim served as Agricultural Advisor to the Administrator of EPA from 1985-1990 and as the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment from 1990-1992.**
- **His real forte is leadership.**
- **He has provided it in the area of resource management, environmental issues of all kinds, agricultural policy and now Homeland Security.**

- **Yet, when I've watched and gained the most respect for the Deputy is in how he expends his time and wisdom with young leaders both at the Department and throughout our country.**
- **Jim is a true gentleman whom I am privileged to call my friend.**
- **Jim is also a determined friend of agriculture and rural America. His insight, vision, and wisdom are valued and sought – not just by me, but policy makers from across the country, around the world, and especially by his peers at USDA.**
- **It is now my great honor and privilege to introduce The Honorable James Moseley, Deputy Secretary for the Department of Agriculture.**